

Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AGRE-00 SS-15 AID-05

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DRAFTED BY OPIC/F G WILLIAMS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: AGRIBUSINESS

REF: (A) STATE 204119; (B) STATE 186570; (C) KHARTOUM 2281;
(D) KHARTOUM 2569

1. DIRECTLY FOLLOWING OPIC MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI

DESCRIBED REFTEL A, AND AS DIRECT RESULT OF THOSE DIS-
CUSSIONS, JOHN HOFF, PRESIDENT OF AG INTERNATIONAL, TOLD
OPIC REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE WOULD VISIT THE SUDAN FOR FIRST-
HAND REAPPRAISAL OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIS FIRM.
HOFF LEAVES STATES FOR EGYPT AND PENINSULA STATES
SEPT 10 AND HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT THE SUDAN
SEPTEMBER 18-23. HIS HOST THERE WILL BE HIS LONG TIME
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FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE DR. K. R. STINO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF

THE ARAB LEAGUE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. HOFF WILL
CALL ON DCM ON ARRIVAL.

2. HOFF IS ALSO MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL; AND WHILE HIS VISIT TO THE SUDAN IS
FOR HIS COMPANY'S BUSINESS REASONS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
HOFF WILL FOLLOW UP INFORMALLY ON DISCUSSIONS WHICH COUNCIL
PRESIDENT MUELLER HAD WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI DURING THE
OPIC PROGRAM. THESE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED THE POSSIBILITY
OF THE COUNCIL, IN ASSOCIATION WITH OPIC, ORGANIZING A
PRACTICAL, PROJECT-ORIENTED APPROACH TO DEVELOPING AND
IMPLEMENTING U.S.-SUDANESE JOINT VENTURES IN AGRIBUSINESS.
SUCH A PROGRAM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INAUGURATED IN EGYPT,
AND HOFF CAN PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH DETAILS. IT IS LIKELY
THAT HOFF'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE
SUDAN WILL INFLUENCE THE COUNCIL'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO
UNDERTAKE SUCH A PROGRAM IN THE SUDAN AND IF SO MORE OR
LESS WHEN. SUCH A PROGRAM, TOO, WOULD DEPEND ON OUTCOME
OF DISCUSSIONS ON COORDINATION MENTIONED REFTEL B AND C
AND SHAPE OF ANY AID PROGRAM IN THIS AREA INDICATED IN
REFTEL D.

3. OPIC WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON HOFF'S VISIT
ON ITS COMPLETION. ROBINSON

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